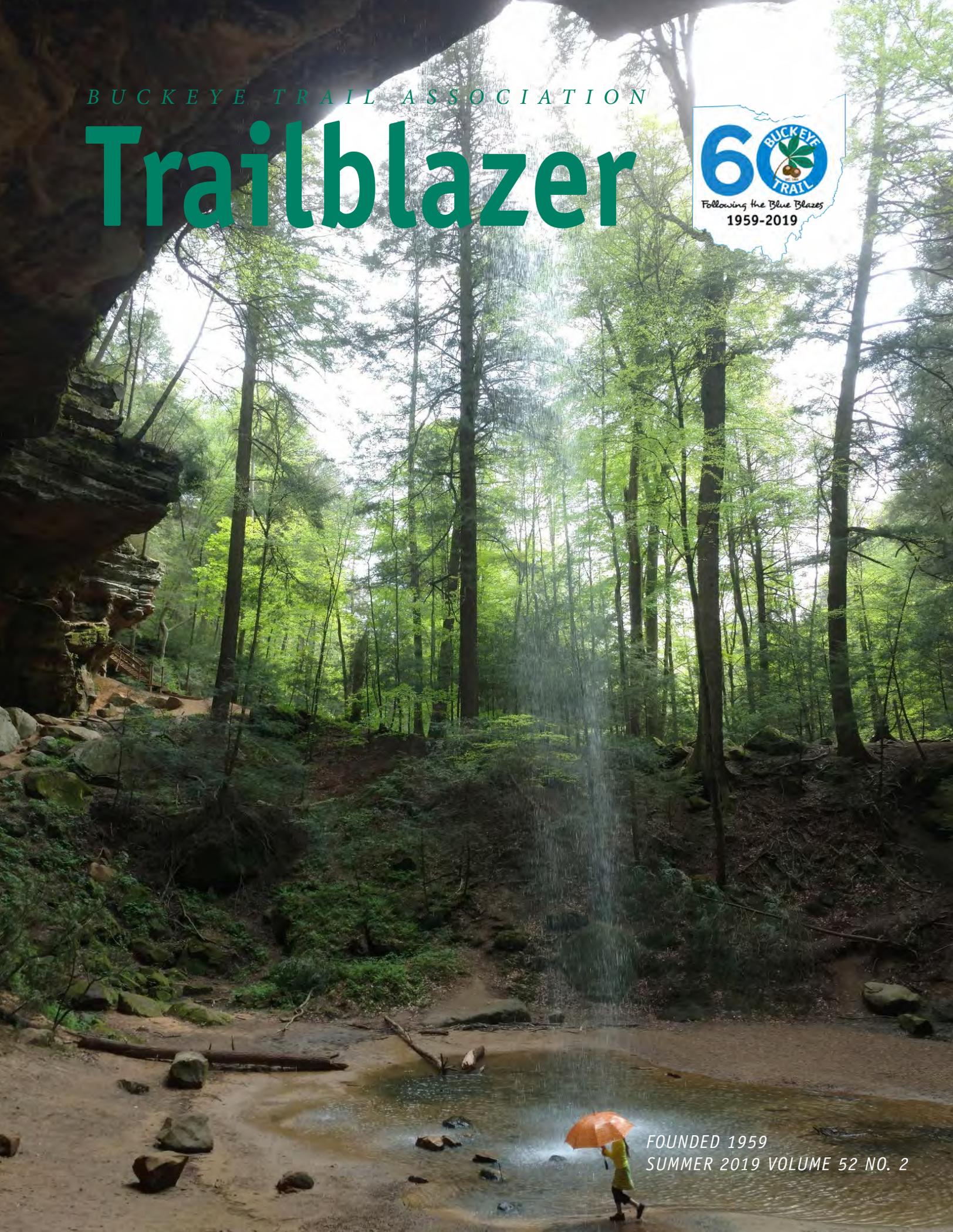


BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Trailblazer



FOUNDED 1959
SUMMER 2019 VOLUME 52 NO. 2

IN THIS ISSUE...

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|-----------------------------------|
| 3 | Buckeye Trail Inventory | 14 | Plaque of Recognition |
| 4 | President's Message | 15 | Buckeye Trail Sign Shop |
| 6 | On the Trail | 16 | Volunteers Honored at Trailfest |
| 8 | Birding the Blue Blazes | 16 | Carsonite Blazing Technique |
| 9 | Photo Collage | 20 | 2019 Schedule of Hikes & Events |
| 10 | Going, Going, Gone. Again. | 21 | Biodiversity on the Buckeye Trail |
| 11 | BTA Funds Report | 22 | MorelFest 2019 |
| 12 | ODNR and Tourism Ohio
Announce Unveiling of Ohio Trails
Vision | 24 | New Member Form |



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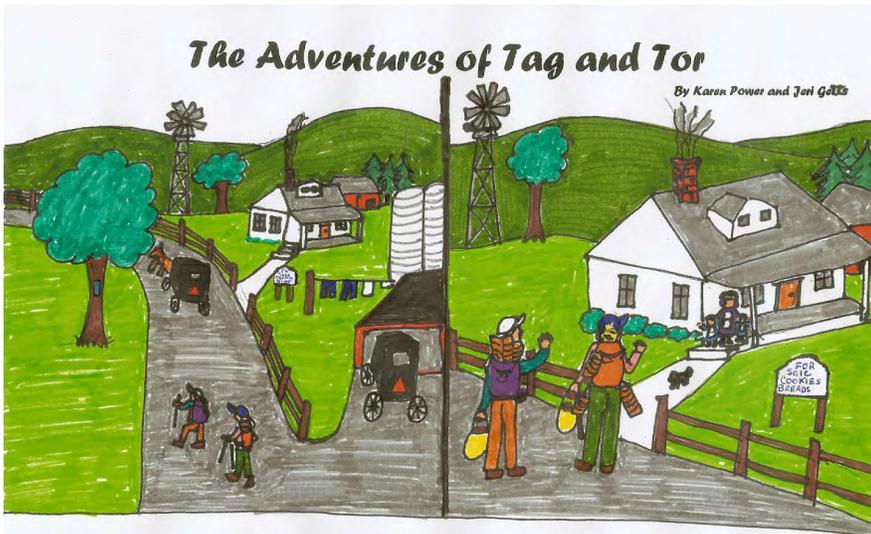
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on recycled paper.

Cover photo: Ash Cave, Hocking Hills,
Buckeye Trail
Photo credit: Andrew Bashaw



When an Amish Farm that sells baked goods sits along the Buckeye Trail, you get Amish Trail Magic

Comic by Karen Power and Jeri Getts

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Buckeye Trail Inventory: Your Help is Needed!

Chuck Hewett and Andy Haag

Thanks to funding by a generous donor, the BTA has an opportunity to create a section-by-section trail plan focused on improving the Buckeye Trail. The Buckeye Trail Plan will specifically document the trail's needs so that staff, volunteers, and partners can raise the funds necessary to implement this plan. The Buckeye Trail Plan will include: identifying needed structures such as bridges, boardwalks, and tent platforms, shelters or simply areas that need to be leveled off to accommodate one or more tents. Also the plan is to document segments of the trail in need of relocation due to on-road and/or wet conditions; creating of a list of persistent vegetation problem areas and possible solutions; and determining areas in need of parking, kiosks, side trails, restrooms, trail-heads, water availability, signage and land areas that need to be purchased for camp sites and shelters. The Ohio DNR is also revising its statewide trail plan and this ties into and supports their efforts as well.

The purpose of the inventory is to create the "perfect" trail in your section. If you had unlimited resources what projects would you list. It is a dream list. It may or may not get done. Money will be made available from the state or some benefactor. It has nothing to do with what can be accomplished with current volunteers. The list may be of things that do not get done even when the trail is twice as old as it is now. But the trail needs a complete dream list so that when money and time permits, we are "shovel ready". The sections with the most complete lists may be the ones with the best chance of receiving money. A member or someone we do not even know sees a project and decides to make it their pet project. Unless the needs are known that spontaneity won't happen. Please assist with making the trail needs known.

Our goal is to complete the plan in 2019, and we need your help! Hikers and members of the Buckeye Trail community can send their input to the local section supervisor via our website at <http://www.buckeyetrail.org/contact.php>. Every person who walks any part of the trail is encouraged to submit their comments and ideas. Buckeye Trail Section Supervisors have been asked to review their respective sections and develop a list of needs. In areas where the Buckeye Trail does not have a Section Supervisor, Richard will be primarily responsible for creating a list of needs for those sections.

As the Buckeye Trail celebrates its 60th birthday in 2019, the completion and implementation of this plan is a significant achievement that will make Ohio's Official Trail a premier destination for day-hikers, segment hikers, backpackers, and thru-hikers.



Buckeye Trail Crew at Edge of Appalachia Nature Preserve

President's Message

Steve Walker

Now that the weather is starting to be pleasant, I'm hoping that you're out there enjoying the Buckeye Trail in one way or another. There's been several opportunities to do just that so far in 2019. Events are already in the books and there's still much of our 60th Anniversary Year left.

The Third Annual Ohio Trails Reception and Legislative Day was, once again, very successful. About 75 Ohio State Legislators' offices were visited. On the same day, the Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus had their first meeting of 2019 and over 60 people attended. The Ohio Trails Partnership and the Caucus are working on a funding appropriation that will hopefully help the Ohio Department of Natural Resources enhance their trails program.

MorelFest 2019 was the first signature event of the year. Just like last year, it was a great success. Compared to 2018, participants this year managed to find morels! The season was not too far along and many found their first morels ever. Our musical entertainment, The Tuscarawas River Band, rocked the Barn. They had so much fun that they plan on coming back next year and recording a session at the Barn. Perhaps the original designers of the BTA Barn must have been planning for its use as an acoustic venue!

During MorelFest 2019, Deersville became a Buckeye Trail Town. The town has been long known for its hospitality and support for Buckeye Trail hikers (especially when it comes to



Photo credit to Karen Walker

ice cream). Currently, Deersville is looking to have an annual Trail Town celebration, potentially in concert with its annual volunteer fire department festival. The Buckeye Trail now goes through Deersville, but there are several phases planned to improve the path of the trail over the next few years.

Only one week later, Karen and I headed to the NCTA Celebration 2019 in Bellaire, Michigan. One of the highlights of the Friday evening NCTA Awards Ceremony was when three BTA members received important recognitions. Delphos Section Supervisor Sam Bonifas received the Outreach Award and Whipple Section Supervisor Matthew Edmonds was chosen as Communicator of the Year. Our long time Section Hiking Coordinator, Jim Gilkey, received the prestigious "Boots on the Ground" Award for his many years of facilitating the section hiking program. Randall Roberts had previously joined the NCTA Awards Committee and has been an active member.

Just two weeks after Celebration, the BTA membership gathered for Buckeye TrailFest 2019 in Northwest Ohio. The TrailFest 2019 Committee, chaired by Ted Shigley, worked diligently over several months to organize meals, presentations, workshops and hikes for everyone to enjoy. The proof of their success was seen in the fact that practically all of the



Brandon Bates, BTA Board Member, Dale Mitchell, Deersville Mayor, Steve Walker, BTA President, Laura Peters, Deersville General Store Owner, and Abigail Klamert, local business owner.



Photo credit to Karen Walker

presentation rooms had been filled. Many folks commented that there were so many great presentations that it was impossible to get to them all. That is a good problem to have. Camp Widewater was a wonderful venue and the food was great. During our evening gatherings, we recognized our own heroes and realized how lucky we were to know each other. For the fifth straight year, CW Spencer led a worship service, preaching around a camp fire for the first time at the event. This has been a wish of his since 2015. The close proximity of all the camping venues, the campfire ring, the hostel-style rooms, the presentation rooms and the dining and hospitality facilities made for a very pleasant time. I'd like to offer my congratulations to Ted and the whole Buckeye TrailFest 2019 Committee for delivering a fantastic experience.

Our next signature event will be the Tenth Annual EGGS Hike and, after that, the Third Annual Little Loop Challenge. In October, the Run for Blue Blazes will take place in our headquarters town of Shawnee, which became a Buckeye Trail Town last year. Along with these signature events, there will be numerous opportunities to enjoy and enhance the Buckeye Trail in its 60th Anniversary Year.

If you're looking to help out, some BTA Committees could use your assistance. Our Development, Awards and Membership Committees are really starting to accomplish things. If working on any of those committees interest you, please let me know at president@. One of the other vital areas of volunteer service includes helping our staff to do the many things that it takes to operate our organization. In addition to those worthy endeavors, there are trail building and maintaining activities and social gatherings of Buckeye Trail folks that are coming up. If you've never participated in a Buckeye Trail event, please consider helping out and meeting some of the best people on Earth. I hope to see you out on the Buckeye Trail enjoying or maintaining it or at one of the many events where BTA members gather. Have a great summer.



Photo credit to Karen Walker



On the Trail

Our 60th year is an amazing time to be part of the Buckeye Trail Association. The energy level was high when we all sang Happy Birthday to Buckeye Trail as Buckeye TrailFest 2019 came to a close. We appreciate the work of BTA volunteers and the increasing demand by hikers and members, like you, who all come together to continually evolve our organization. I believe Merrill Gilfillan got it right in his 1958 article, A Buckeye Trail; So Far it is Just an Idea, that a Buckeye Trail “should be as endless and boundless as the energy and the imagination of those who would use it...”. The imaginative work of our volunteers is inspiring another generation of hikers, members and volunteers to continue blazing our path forward.

Thanks to your support, the BTA volunteers were able to release a first edition of a BT Data-book, a BT Guthook – Atlas Guides mobile phone app, and downloadable Avenza geopdf maps as part of our efforts to get more boots on the BT. Right now, we have a handful of BT thru-hikers dodging storms to discover Ohio on foot, including two military veterans with Warrior Expeditions. The BTA has purchased a CNC router and has initiated a BT signage program to increase the awareness of the BT and ease of following the trail. Our local BTA Chapter system is growing in strength and number, from great fundraising and volunteerism by the Crooked River Chapter to create and deploy an outfitted mobile trail crew trailer, to the happy morel hunters at the Muskingum Lakes Chapter’s MorelFest held at the BTA’s Beall Farmstead, or the upcoming 10th anniversary Emma Grandma Gatewood Solstice Hike in the Little Cities of the Forest Chapter and an inspiration to start a new Miami & Erie Canal Chapter in northwest Ohio.

Our very first partner, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, released the new Ohio Trails Vision at TrailFest

that we helped to initiate and has answered the call on one of our major worries by succeeding in passing a \$47 million budget proposal through the Ohio House of Representatives to acquire and preserve all of the AEP ReCreation Lands that host 26 miles of the BT, which we built and maintain. Following on the heels of our Imhoff Preserve acquisition that opened up a 3.5 mile corridor for the BT to be constructed across the Wayne National Forest, we are targeting a strategic 21 acre property in Shelby County that will connect the BT from Johnston Farm & Indian Agency to Lockington Locks and to Lockington Reserve. This will remove a 1.8 mile road walk and create another destination hike along the BT.

This spring, the Village of Deersville and the City of Napoleon, both with a long history of BT support, have been designated as Buckeye Trail Towns. On May 16, 2019 at Ritter Park along the Maumee River, we acknowledged our newest Trail Towns. The event was the kick off for Buckeye TrailFest 2019. Local and state officials along with attending BTA members came to the dedication. The BTA acknowledged Napoleon’s hard work to embrace the Buckeye Trail, North Country National Scenic Trail, Miami & Erie Canal and Maumee River State Water Trail as important pieces of the town’s future. We also acknowledged our other newest Trail Town: Deersville.

Another Buckeye Trail Town, Yellow Springs, will soon be home to a physical Buckeye Trail Shop retail space. This is the next step in their evolution of the BT product line and with Yellow Springer Tees. Thanks in part to the generosity of a BTA donor, member, and volunteer, we were able to purchase three buildings on Main Street in the historic Village of Shawnee. This includes our current office space, which will improve our function as a resource center for BTA volunteers and provide a better visitor center experience for the increase in trail based tourism in the region.



Photo credit to Brent Anslinger

Those are just a few of the gifts that the ideal of a long distance hiking trail around the Buckeye State continually presents us. It's a lot of work for everyone, but often we have fun doing it and, if it isn't fun, at least it can be very rewarding. Merrill Gilfillan also wrote about "the need for such a public facility where Ohio youth may have an opportunity to find inspiring recreation... Youth should be encouraged to slow down and learn to know their native land... They need the invitation for a back-to-nature movement, for the opportunity to form real, sound friendships." His quote holds true, but I believe that it extends beyond that. It applies to all of us. We all find these things on the Buckeye Trail, regardless of our age and no matter how we engage with Ohio's trail. Our 60th Birthday is a celebration of us. We are the people that Gilfillan, Grandma Gatewood, Bob Paton and more of our early leaders daydreamed of... and we have a lot more work and opportunities ahead of us.

But we need your help still! The BTA is not without its fault or lack of capacity and challenges that any relatively small nonprofit encounters as we attempt to not just survive – but thrive! We need your input to guide your BTA into the future. We're developing a strategic vision for 2025 and I invite you to

stay tuned to the BTA homepage for an invitation to offer your important energy and imagination on where we are heading. Thank you in advance for giving your thoughts to your elected BTA Board of Trustees, and thank you to our 15 Trustees for your leadership.

In the spirit of our 60th Birthday celebration we'd like to share the gift of giving. For many there is just as much or more joy in giving than receiving. You will notice in our Spring appeal letter to each member a special offer to give a free one year BTA membership to someone like yourself, someone you think might be as inspired by the Buckeye Trail as you are. I hope you enjoy thinking on whom that person is that will enjoy being a part of one Ohio's greatest ideas for years to come. Happy Birthday!

Thank you for supporting the BTA, thank you for all of your hard work, and above all thank you for hiking!

Andrew Bashaw
Executive Director

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Birding the Blue Blazes

Jeremy Dominguez, BTA Intern

Have you ever hiked on your favorite section of the Buckeye Trail, heard a familiar song, but just couldn't place it? Maybe it is time for you to tap into your inner birder. As hikers we love being submerged into nature, but for some we want to learn who is making the music in the early mornings of spring or what may be chattering above our heads while on the trail. The state of Ohio has a strong birding community and many resources one can utilize to learn about and protect our birds. We birders out there also have a huge chance to utilize the Buckeye Trail to enjoy the birds we love so much.

The Buckeye Trail conserves land by maintaining trails through fragile habitats and sometimes buying critical lands like the BTA Pretty Run Preserve in Vinton County or Imhoff Preserve in Perry County that become protected by the BTA with a mission to serve its community and partners. One of the more interesting parts is that it runs through private lands that would otherwise be off limits to hikers and birders.

The blue blazes of the BT connect a vast network of Ohio's birding sites into a 1,454-mile loop within an hour or so of every Ohioan. Almost 20 state parks, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Wayne National Forest, state nature preserves, and reserves. Sites, such as Shawnee State Forest, have all the Southern breeding warblers, and vast AEP lands host many important grassland species. Turns out the BTA has not only been building, maintaining, protecting and promoting one of the nation's longest hiking trails for 60 years, they've also been creating one of the nation's longest birding trails for us all to enjoy!

I have many memorable birding experiences on the Buckeye Trail. Imagine setting up camp in a field on the Buckeye Trail and waking up to a serenade of songs in the morning, I had this experience while backpacking through Burr Oak State Park, Waking up to Bluebirds, Woodcocks, various species of owls, Cardinals, Field Sparrows, and turkeys. It was an almost overwhelming moment that I hope everyone has a chance to enjoy. Another experience that comes to mind was when a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, *Calidris subruficollis*, also known as a Buffy, was reported on the beach of Caesar Creek State Park. Once myself and my good friend Sean Howell got word of the Buffy being seen we took action and armed ourselves with bin-



Photo credit to George Blankenhorn

oculars and camera and set out to see this rare migrant that passes through Ohio in fall in small numbers. Anxiety grew as we pulled up to our destination. After a couple minutes of searching through the Killdeer, *Charadrius vociferous*, we found our bird. Sean and I joyfully watched and photographed the Buff-breasted Sandpiper for almost an hour until we got our fill. The Buckeye Trail conveniently served us as the Caesar Creek beach is right on the trail itself. So many experiences are to be had for hikers and birders alike.

Whether you are searching for Purple Sandpipers at Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, the northern terminus of the BT, or exploring for the first wave of migratory warblers at your local park, check and see if the blue blazes that mark the entirety of the Buckeye Trail are around. If you are interested in learning more about the Buckeye Trail, please visit the site for volunteer opportunities, and events such as Buckeye TrailFest, which feature bird walks.



Photo Gallery

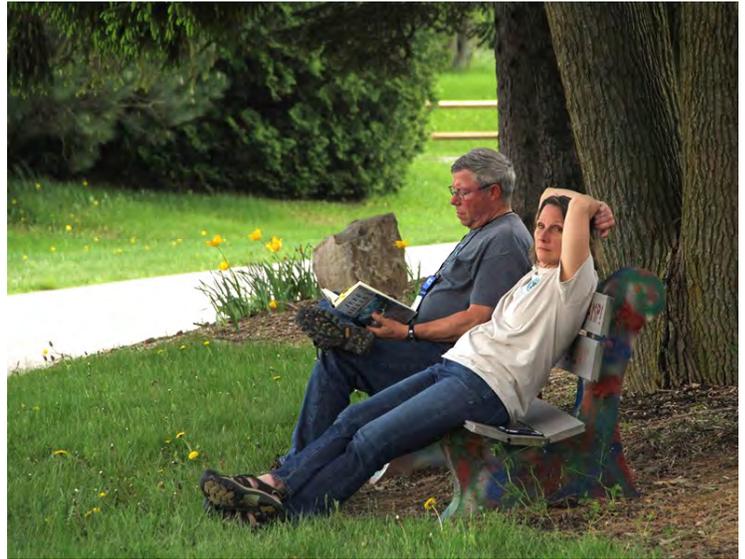


Photo credit to George Blankenhorn



Photo credit to George Blankenhorn



Photo credit to George Blankenhorn





Photo courtesy of Dianne Bell.

GOING, GOING, GONE. AGAIN.

Dianne Bell

I am hiking on a path in the Scioto forest. In front of me is a group of fellow hikers, wearing various types of hats, complete with backpacks, rain gear, bright colored shirts and jackets. Some have water bottles attached to their sides. Most have hiking poles to help them navigate the hills and streams. They pulsate in their efforts to gain mileage, some in twos and threes, some single file, and others alone. Behind me are the sweeps; kind, experienced hikers who follow the group to provide assistance or to make sure no one becomes lost. All are managing those miles they hope to achieve. I am going with them. I am going home. Again.

I finished hiking the BT November 2016 with great fanfare, relief and joy. All my hiking friends were there at the end of the trail to celebrate this great feat. So many miles, so many places, and so much to experience, see and enjoy! Many of the miles I accomplished alone. Other areas were with groups. Much of it was with my partner in tow, Jim Gilkey. At the end of it all I was met with a beautiful cake and so many smiles on the last mile. I did it! I finished the Buckeye Trail! All 1440 miles of it! I loved every minute of that last hike.

My home was in Milford near the junction of trails on the bike path there. I began to walk it in bits and pieces on the Loveland section, going north. At first it was simply a long, pleasant walk, until I came across information stating that the trail belonged to the Buckeye Trail. I quickly ordered books and maps from the BTA website, and began what became the greatest trip of my life. From Milford, I made it all the way to Springfield, OH. Going east, the trip brought me to Burr Oak and back. I had to backtrack each mile, since I had hiked alone.

There were milestones and predicaments, troubles and tribulations. There were elations and hilarious moments, difficulties and beauty I'd never discovered before. And there was camaraderie with others. It was an adventure that I'd hoped never end, yet ended the November in 2016. During the time I hiked the BT, I made friends, learned about gear, took

up maintenance, and joined work parties to "give back" to the trail. I also got married, sent my son off to college, lost a job (hiking the BT helped me persevere through this), busted my foot and had two surgeries. I thought I would never hike again. I began to miss it. But the BT kept calling, so I took up my pack and got back on it.

Life feels incredibly full-filling when you hike the BT. Life seemed empty with out it. So I took up with Jim Gilkey on occasional circuit hikes. Then, as the group started winding down the southern side, I picked up the sections with them that I did those years ago when I hiked the BT alone. Now, I relive the glory days of discovery on those early hikes, sharing tips and views. I look forward to finishing the trail with them.

Going home. Again.



Photo courtesy of Dianne Bell

BTA Funds Report

Your contribution to any BTA fund is tax deductible. All contributions of \$20 or more are acknowledged. We hope to include your name in the list of contributors in the Trailblazer.

FEBRUARY 2018 TO MAY 2018

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ODNR and TourismOhio Announce Unveiling of Ohio Trails Vision

by ODNR

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and TourismOhio are excited to announce the release of the Ohio Trails Vision, a document that will serve as a valuable framework for state government to work with communities, land managers, trail advocates and users to advance the trails system in our state.

“Ohio is an amazing state, with thousands of miles of trails for walking, hiking, biking, paddling or horseback riding,” said Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. “These trails are part of what makes our state so special. The 2019 Ohio Trails Vision gives us a road map to manage and promote our trails. I appreciate the efforts of everyone involved in this project.”

The plan lays out a vision — that Ohio is a leader in providing sustainable trails for all users, offering an extraordinary network of world-class recreation and transportation opportunities linking communities, people and places while stimulating economic and social vitality.

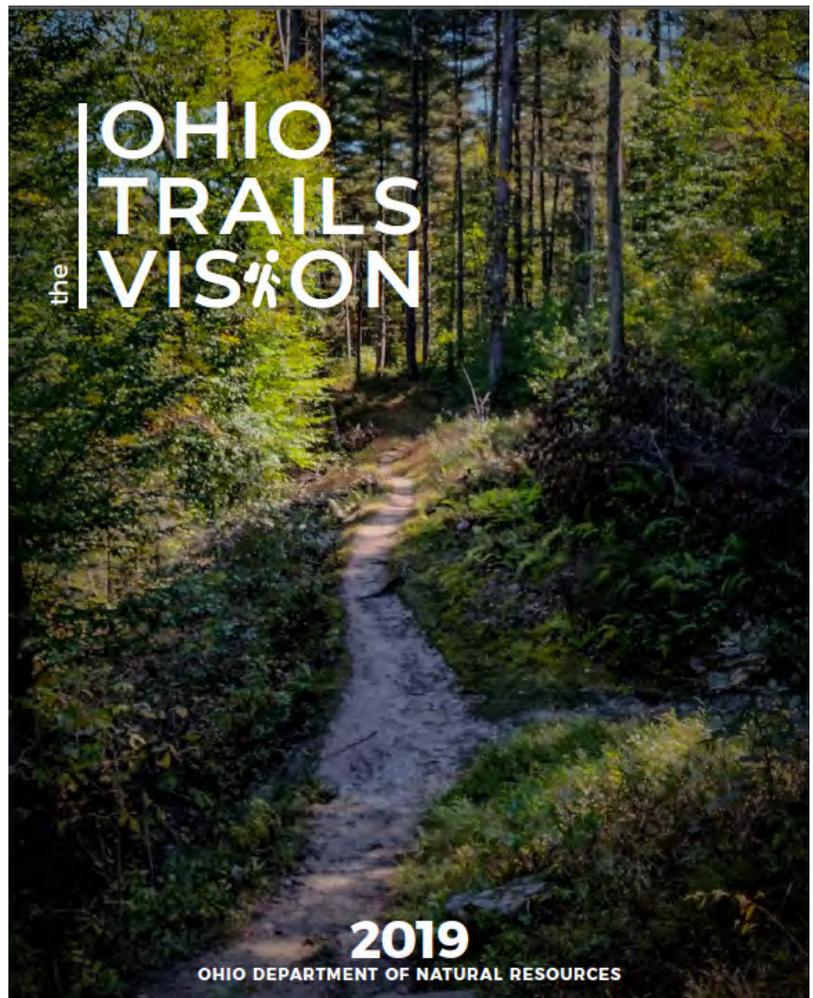
In 2018 research conducted on behalf of TourismOhio, enjoying the outdoors was one of the top five reasons leisure travelers stated for taking an Ohio trip.

Recreational trails are extremely popular in Ohio. Communities across the state are planning and building trails to provide residents with more chances to live healthy, active lifestyles. The strength of the state’s trail system is the diversity of experiences it offers, with systems available for bicyclists, walkers, runners, hikers, paddlers, equestrians, motorized users and more.

ODNR manages the state’s parks, preserves, forests, waterways and wildlife areas, which have more than 1,600 miles of trails for hikers, bikers, walkers and paddlers to traverse. Ohio’s trails network goes well beyond state parks and state nature preserves. From the Ohio to Erie Trail, which spans more than 300 miles from Cincinnati to Cleveland, to the 1,400-mile Buckeye Trail that reaches into every corner of the state, Ohio has an extensive trails network of more than 5,000 trail miles.

For every kind of outdoors trail, *Ohio. Find It Here.*

To locate a trail near you and to read the Ohio Trails Vision, visit trails.ohiodnr.gov and check Ohio.org for more great outdoors adventures. Go to youtube/_w4SK7Likxo to see a short video highlighting the importance of finding Ohio’s nature trails.



Plaque of Recognition

Chuck and Beth Hewett

The Buckeye Trail is 1444+/- miles in one state – that is amazing and yet daunting for one state to maintain. The creation of the trail and its continued improvement over the years takes an army of dedicated volunteers. Too many times volunteers are overwhelmed by requests for their time and we learn later that individuals seeking information about the trail go unheeded and, those who have completed the entire trail, go uncelebrated. Those individuals have offered much to the BTA. Their perspective of the trail should be sought out and appreciated.

The trail has great value for those who only walk part of its path whether once or daily. It is a point of pride to say you walked part of the BT. For some, it may be as precious a moment as those who are proud to say they set foot on the Appalachian Trail. Many people hike on the AT but few complete the entire trail and even fewer successfully thru-hike the AT. Yet it is the thru-hikers and successful section hikers that really give notoriety and awe to the trail. It is with that thought that Beth and I with approval from the BTA have created a plaque to allow individuals to proudly hang their accomplishment on a wall.

Below is the list of names that has been compiled to date of those who have completed a thru-hike of the completed loop trail (whatever form it was in at the time of their hike).

- 2000** John Merrill (from England!)
- 2003** Brent & Amy Anslinger - Miamisburg, OH
- 2004** Peter and Joyce Cottrell - Whitefield, NH
- 2011** Andy Niekamp - Dayton, OH
- 2012** Denise Hill - Cincinnati, OH
- 2013** Mary Warren and Lisa Strohm - Lancaster, OH
- 2016** Chuck and Beth Hewett - Hanoverton, OH
Sterling Deck - Monroe, OH
Martin Strange
- 2017** MeiLing Liber
Preston Hudson
Tom Helbig
- 2018** Don Lenc (oldest thru-hiker: 72) - Medina, OH
Everett Brandt (fastest thru-hiker: 55 days) - OH
- 2019** This could be you!

The only people the BTA has record of thru-hiking the trail before it became a loop trail was in 1974. At the time it was 500 miles long. They were Cliff Thorniley (31) and 4 high school students from Heath, Ohio – Roger Jones (15), Rick Welsh (14), Carl Cooperider (13) and Craig Cooperider (15). These hikers were honored by Governor Gilligan later in 1974

You may not be honored by the Governor of Ohio, but a plaque has been created to allow you to recognize your accomplishment. The plaque pictured is the first one created by a local trophy shop. The plaque can be ordered with your information displayed. Simply provide the following information:

NAME(S)
TRAIL NAME(S) [optional]
THRU-HIKE OR SECTION HIKE
TIME PERIOD HIKED [e.g. April 22 – July 6, 2016 OR 2006 – 2017
(for section hikers)]

The plaque may be purchased for \$60 payable to Chuck Hewett. All profits go to the BTA.



Section hikers: We do not have a list of your names. Regardless of whether or not you wish to order a plaque, please help us compile a list of persons who have successfully completed the entire trail (include dates, if possible). If there is some form of documentation of the accomplishment, please forward that as well.

Send the information to:
Hewett
6734 Lakeview Road
Hanoverton, Ohio 44423
Or email at chuckhewett@yahoo.com

Once again, we are excited to congratulate everyone who has completed the trail.

Buckeye Trail Sign Shop

Article and photos by Tom Rohr

The Buckeye Trail Association now has a sign making shop! The fruition of this dream is a result of coincidence. In January of 2018, I addressed the need for some signage to clarify a confusing intersection of the Road Fork Section of the BT. I used a fixed base router to try to route the trail directions in a piece of barn board. My attempt to create a rustic look came with limited success. During this time, I was talking on the phone with Chuck Hewett about some of the campsites, kiosks and other places along the RF Section of the trail. We discussed the need to have appropriate signage to identify these locations. Chuck mentioned that the BT had been talking of having a single sign making facility. Because of my very limited experience and appreciating the need for appropriate equipment, I expressed an interest. My impression was that the BT would purchase the appropriate hand held router and letter guides (templates) so

that I could cut letters into wooden signs. As discussions progressed, it became clear that a better approach would be to focus on signage made of two-color laminated plastic. The router cuts through the top lamination exposing the verbiage in the second color without having to paint the lettering for highlighting. Furthermore, the plastic material will weather better and longer than wood. I contacted the Section Supervisors and asked their opinion relative to their needs for signage. They had several questions regarding what signage could be provided, how to request signage and what the final product would look like, but otherwise gave a positive response.



As I researched routers, I learned of a more high-tech router system for sign making that could also complete woodworking tasks. It is called a CNC (Computer Numerical Control) router. It uses a two-axis control system to move a router over a worktable. The router follows the two-dimensional path as defined by a computer input and directs the path of the router over the material mounted on the worktable. The system is very flexible and able to make different fonts and shapes for customized markings. Signs made on a CNC machine are repeatable and the set-up and manufacture of duplicate signs is very rapid. The CNC machine takes away the need for a skilled router operator and lets a programmer create and test a design before it is actually cut by the router. As I researched the equipment, I visited suppliers in Strongsville, Columbus, and Toledo. The plastic material that would be used had limited availability so I personally checked out resources in Akron and New Lawrence, Ohio and also received samples from several other suppliers. My search for CNC router zeroed in on a piece of equipment made by a company in Perrysburg Ohio-Next Wave Automation. This equipment, called a Shark HD4, can handle a workpiece (a sign, if you will) with a size of 24 in². This was the size consensus of the Section Supervisors. A perfect match.

Along with the physical equipment, software was provided. It is called VCarve Pro and is supplied by the firm, Vectric, located in Great Britain. If anyone is interested, go to the website vectric.com/products/vcarve-pro to download a free trial. It is the same software I am using except that without the license the data cannot be downloaded to the CNC. Regardless, it may be fun to try it out! The equipment was purchased from a retail store, Woodcraft, in Toledo. They also provided a 1-day training session that got me started. The equipment is of significant bulk but the operation is somewhat straightforward. The software is, in its basic design, also straightforward but powerful and in-depth. There are a number of very good Youtube videos online, which have been and continue to be of great help. King ColorCore® is a versatile multi-color, engravable, and high-density polyethylene sheet with multiple layers of contrasting colors. It is manufactured by King Plastics Corporation in North Port Florida. The Trail Management Team chose to use a brown-white-brown material so the signs would be quite similar to NCT, Wayne National Forest and other trail signs. The material is ¼ inch thick and very rugged.

The signs themselves can be made with a variety of fonts and symbols. However, all sign requests must be processed through the Trail Management Team. The intent is to keep the signs uniform and repeatable throughout the BT. I picked up the equipment in late December of 2018. It was an impressive array of well-packaged components, many quite heavy. I imposed upon a couple of young fellows from down the street to help me carry



the big heavy items into the basement. Actually, I watched as they carried the components. After assembling the stand and dust enclosure – lots of nuts and bolts, I enlisted my three sons-in-law to help me to assemble the CNC which involved placing a heavy gantry over the worktable – both very heavy. Once the system was assembled, I began to run sample signs routed in wood. There were a few failures but finally on the day before Trail Fest I ran my first official BT sign to designate the trail-head of the soon to be opened Caldwell Lake Trail portion in Noble County Ohio.

The Buckeye Trail Sign Shop is open for business. Section Supervisors should process their request for signs through the Trail Management Team (Richard Lutz, chairman, tmt_chair@buckeyetrail.org). I hope to be able to provide prompt, quality service to signage requests. To conclude, let me say that this whole process has been a fun and enjoyable experience.

Volunteers Honored at TrailFest!

Ryan Kelpy Brown – BTA Asst. Volunteer Coordinator & AmeriCorps Member

TrailFest 2019 was a great celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Buckeye Trail. It was a time of fun and fellowship but also a time to reflect on all the incredible accomplishments made over the last 60 years. The evening was rife with laughs, storytelling, and fond memories. While we think every volunteer deserves an award, we recognized some of the most deserving of the BTA family for their incredible contributions to the organization. What was once just an idea 6 decades ago is now your 1400+-mile Buckeye Trail. The trail has had many changes over the years but one thing that hasn't changed is the dedication of our amazing members and volunteers who put in so much work to make this idea a reality. With that said, here were the BTA award recipients at TrailFest 2019. Thanks again to everyone for all you do for the Buckeye Trail:

The James Sprague Buckeye Trail Adopter and Builder Award: Susan Stover
Buckeye Trail Rising Star Award: Marisa Pahoulis
Bill Miller Award for Conservation: Cheryl Kreindler
The Buckeye Trail Business Partnership Award: Vince Rucci – Vertical Runner
The Bob Paton award for Meritorious Service: Jim Gilkey
The Dr. Roy Fairfield President's Award: Brandon Bates
The Emma Grandma Gatewood Award for Distinguished Service: Chuck and Beth Hewett
The Merrill Gilfillan Award for Visionary Agency Partners: Tom Arbour
Ralph Regula Award for Leadership: Senator Sean O'Brien & Senator
Buckeye Trail Blazer Award for Leadership by Example:
Pat Hayes, Dane Miles, Jo Rawley, Andy Hagat
Buckeye Trail Association Trustee Emeritus: Pat Hayes
BUCKEYE TRAIL CREW AWARDS:
1,000 Hours of Service: Susan Stover
500 Hours of Service - Custom Embroidered Jacket: Terry Blackstone
250 Hours - Honor Roll: Mary Hayes, Richard Saccardi
100 Hours of Service - 100 hour Patch: Dan Campbell, Mark Schwab
30 Hours of Service - Custom Trail Crew Shirt:
Mark Anstaett, Everett Brandt, Hanry Krzemien, Dane Miles, Jim Reagan, Lynn Richardson, Randall Roberts, Sunny Sunyak, Jacob Thompson.

Carsonite Blazing Technique

Patrick Hayes

Have you been hiking the Buckeye Trail where painted blazes are not allowed? For example, Downtown Medina and Richfield Heritage Preserve do not permit painted blazes. In these cases, the alternative given was to use Carsonite posts or pieces of Carsonite Posts with Blue Blaze decals and, where it was needed, turn arrows.

In downtown Medina, the city allowed me to install pieces of Carsonite posts with a Blue Blaze decal on existing city signposts. We cut the Carsonite pieces with a hacksaw from old, damaged posts. The pieces were cut 13" long for use without a turn arrow and 15" long for use with a turn arrow below the Blue Blaze decal.



At Richfield Heritage Preserve we were allowed to blaze the trail by installing full Carsonite posts with Blue Blaze decals and turn arrows where needed.

Curious to make your own Carsonite Posts? Here's how it's done:

- 9/32" holes were drilled in the Carsonite pieces for mounting to a post. The holes in the posts are in one-inch increments.
- Measure down 1" from the top of a piece of Carsonite post and make a centered mark.
- For a 13" piece of Carsonite measure down from the top mark 11" and make another mark. For a 15" piece of Carsonite post measure down 13" from the top mark and make another mark.
- Center punch the marks and drill 9/32" holes.
- Use a piece of wood to back up the Carsonite piece when drilling the holes.
- Install the decals and mount the Carsonite pieces on street posts using either 2" or 2 1/2" long, 1/4" stainless steel bolts washers and nuts, depending on the depth of the post.

2019 Schedule of Hikes & Events

Always check www.buckeyetrail.org/events.html for more information and last-minute updates

JUNE

June 22-23, 2019

Work Weekend at West Branch State Park in the Mogadore Section

Description: This work will focus on the trail extension planned around the reservoir.

Meals: This is a bring-your-own food event

Camping: Horse Camp on the North Shore, 41.14992, -81.11256

Contact: For questions about the work party and to RSVP contact Steve Latza at green.boonie@gmail.com

June 29-30, 2019

BT Circuit Hike - West Union Section

Saturday: Meet at SR-763 and Suck Run Road, just before the bridge, Point 15. Coordinates: N38.76915 - W083.71464. Leave at 9:00AM to car

Sunday: Meet on Russellville-Armheim Road before Martin Hollow Road, Point 21. Coordinates: N38.88596 - W083.81147. Leave at 8:30AM to car pool

Camping: In the Group Campsite at Lively Lady Campground, 995 US-52, Aberdeen OH 45101. Coordinates N38.65649 - W083.76642.

Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912 ahead of time or at 740-277-8749 on the hike weekend.

JULY

July 13-14, 2019

Work Weekend at West Branch State Park in the Mogadore Section

Description: This work will focus on the trail extension planned around the reservoir.

Meals: This is a bring-your-own food event

Camping: Horse Camp on the North Shore, 41.14992, -81.11256

Contact: For questions about the work party and to RSVP contact Steve Latza at green.boonie@gmail.com

July 13-17, 2019

Work Week at Road Fork and Whipple Sections

Description: The Trail Crew will leave at 8:00 AM and work until 3:00 PM.

Camping: Little Muskingum Watershed Association Property, OH-26 & Township Road 88 New Matamoras, Ohio 45767. 39.54197, -81.22468

Meals: Free food at the campsite for the first 20 volunteers to contact

chuckwagon@buckeyetrail.org.

Contact: Tom Rohr at 419-281-7465 for work party information and to RSVP.

July 20, 2019

3rd Annual Little Loop Challenge

Registration will open in April or May. Visit (buckeyetrail.org/LittleLoopChallenge.php) for details.

Contact: Little Loop team at littleloop@buckeyetrail.org

July 27-28, 2019

Buckeye Trail Board Meeting 10:00AM

Location: This BTA Board Meeting is the annual Board Retreat and is held at the Beale Farmstead on Tappan Lake near Deersville, OH. The meeting starts at 10:00AM on Saturday and 9:00AM on Sunday.

Contact: Steve Walker, President, at president@buckeyetrail.org

July 27-28, 2019

Norwalk Section Hike

Saturday: Meet by the large grain building on Wakeman Town Line Rd about 500 feet north of Point 17. Coordinates: N41.22429 - W082.44241. Leave at 9:00AM to car pool

Sunday: Meet along Cook Rd about 300 feet west of Point 21. Coordinates: N41.13790 - W082.35166. Leave at 8:30AM to car pool

Camping: Camp Conley, 2597 South Railroad St., Collins OH 44826. Coordinates N41.25762 - W082.49671.

Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912 ahead of time or at 740-277-8749 on the hike weekend.

July 31, 2019

Discover the BTA

Description: Wednesday - Time TBD. Meet Chuck and Beth Hewett at the Warren-Trumbull Public Library
Location: Warren-Trumbull Public Library, 444 Mahoning Ave., Warren, OH 44483

Contact: Kristina Martinez at 330-399-8807

AUGUST

August 3-7, 2019

Work Week at Tar Hollow in the Scioto Trail Section

The Trail Crew will leave at 8:00 AM and work until 3:00 PM.

Camping: TBD

Meals: This is a bring-your-own food event

Contact: For questions about the work party and to RSVP contact Deven Atkinson at devenatkinson@gmail.com

August 9-11, 2019

Summer Fungi Foraging along the BT/NCNST Event

Description:

Friday: - Arrive at the BTA Barn and set up camp starting at 3:00 PM. Check in at the BTA barn upon arrival.

Saturday: Foraging hikes and hikes along the Bowerston Section of the BT will be available at different times on Saturday. Please see sign in sheets in BTA Barn for more details.

Sunday: Plan on leaving camp by 2:00 PM on Sunday.

Camping: At the BTA Barn

NOTE: Pets are welcome, but we reserve the right to ask pet owners to take their pets home, if they exhibit aggressive behavior towards people or other pets. Thanks for understanding.

Registration: Will open soon.

Contact: For questions about this event contact the Muskingum Lakes Chapter at muskingumlakes@buckeyetrail.org

Hikes & Events Continued

August 10-14, 2019

Work Week at West Branch State Park in the Mogadore Section

The Trail Crew will leave at 8:00 AM and work until 3:00 PM.

Meals: This is a bring-your-own food event

Camping: Horse Camp on the North Shore, 41.14992, -81.11256

Contact: For questions about the work party and to RSVP contact Bill Jindra at 440-313-8885 or jindras@oberlin.net

August 11, 2019

Little Loop Presentation

Sunday: 2:00 to 3:30PM

Location: Penitentiary Glen Reservation, 8668 Kirtland Chardon Rd, Kirtland, OH

Contact: Crooked River Chapter at crookedriver@buckeyetrail.org

August 17-18, 2019

BT Circuit Hike

Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912 ahead of time or at 740-277-8749 on the hike weekend.

August 20, 2019

Discover the BTA

Description: Tuesday – 10:30 AM. Meet Chuck and Beth Hewett at the Chardon Senior Center

Location: Chardon Senior Center, 12555 Ravenwood Drive, Chardon, Ohio

Contact: Melissa Wheeler at 440-279-2126

August 22, 2019

Discover the BTA

Description: Thursday - 7:00PM.

Location: Geauga Bainbridge Library, 17222 Snyder Road, Chagrin Falls, OH

Contact: April Holmes at 440-543-6511 x2542

August 24-28, 2019

Work Week at Independence Dam State Park in the Defiance Section

The Trail Crew will leave at 8:00 AM and work until 3:00 PM.

Meals: This is a bring-your-own food event

Camping: Independence Dam State Park Primitive Campground, 27722 County Rd 424, Defiance, OH 43512, 41.29195, -84.27451

Contact: For questions about the work party and to RSVP contact Karen Beckman 419-341-4013.

S E P T E M B E R

September 7-11, 2019

Work Week at Clendening Lake in the Bowerston Section

Camping: BTA Century Bar. Located on the shore of Tappan Lake at 83949 Beale Road, Cadiz, OH 43907.

Meals: Food will be provided by the BTA Barn Kitchen. Contact Mary Hamilton hamilton3310@roadrunner.com to make food donations

Contact: Scott Pendleton tallyp2001@yahoo.com for work party questions and to RSVP.

September 14-15, 2019

BT Circuit Hike

Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912 ahead of time or at 740-277-8749 on the hike weekend.

September 21-22, 2019

Work Weekend at West Branch State Park in the Mogadore Section

Description: This work will focus on the trail extension planned around the reservoir.

Meals: This is a bring-your-own-food-event

Camping: Horse Camp on the North Shore, 41.14992, -81.11256

Contact: For questions about the work party and to RSVP contact Steve Latza at green.boonie@gmail.com

September 21-25, 2019

Work Week in the New Straitsville Section in preparation for the Run for the Blue Blazes Marathon

The trail crew will be working from 8:30am to 3:30pm.

Camping: The Crew will be camping near Dock 3 at Burr Oak State Park group camp for the week,

Meals: Free food at the campsite for the first 20 volunteers to contact chuckwagon@buckeyetrail.org

Contact: Herb Hulls for work party information and to RSVP at 740-787-2416 or 53hulls14@windstream.net

September 21-22, 2019

Work Weekend at West Branch State Park in the Mogadore Section

Description: This work will focus on the trail extension planned around the reservoir.

Meals: This is a bring-your-own food event

Camping: Horse Camp on the North Shore, 41.14992, -81.11256

Contact: For questions about the work party and to RSVP contact Steve Latza at green.boonie@gmail.com

Sept. 29, 2019

BTA Golf Outing

Description: Save this date for the 1st BTA Golf Outing! More info to follow soon.

Contact: Brandon Bates at muskingumlakes@buckeyetrail.org for all the details.

O C T O B E R

Oct. 5, 2019

2019 Buckeye Trail Run: Run for Blue Blazes

Location: The race starts and ends in downtown Shawnee OH.

Information: Visit the (buckeyetrail.org/run4blue.php) web page for all the details. Registration is OPEN!

October 12-16, 2019

Work Week at Camp Tuscazoar in the Massillon Section

The Trail Crew will leave at 8:30 AM and work until 3:30 PM.

Camping: Camp Tuscazoar at 066 Boy Scout Rd NE, Dover, OH 44622.

Meals: Food will be provided by the BTA Barn Kitchen. Contact Mary Hamilton hamilton3310@roadrunner.com to make food donations

Contact: Steve Walker president@buckeyetrail.org for work party questions and to RSVP

October 26-27, 2019

Work Weekend at Pretty Run in the Old Man's Cave Section

We will leave the camp at 8:30 AM and work until 3:30 PM.

Camping: at Pretty Run, 39.34987 N, -82.62431 W.

Meals: This is not a Chuck wagon event, so volunteers must bring their own food and water

Contact: For questions about the work party and to RSVP contact Byron Guy at oldmancave@buckeyetrail.org

NOVEMBER

Nov 2, 2019

Buckeye Trail Board Meeting 10:00AM

Location: TBD

Contact: Steve Walker, President, at president@buckeyetrail.org

November 9-10, 2019

BT Circuit Hike

Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912 ahead of time or at 740-277-8749 on the hike weekend.

October 19-20, 2019

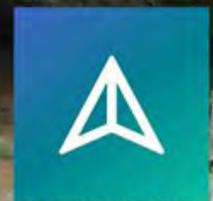
BT Circuit Hike

Contact: Jim Gilkey at 614-879-9912 ahead of time or at 740-277-8749 on the hike weekend.



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Biodiversity on the Buckeye Trail: The Fruits of Summer

Article and photos by Ryan Brown
Paw paws pictured above.

One of the things I look forward to most about the arrival of summer is to, once again, have fresh and local produce on the table. There is nothing quite like biting into a plump, ripe strawberry bought from a neighbor at the farmer's market or an ear of buttered corn that bursts with flavor and sweetness in every bite. These delicious foods do your own health, and the economic health of your community, some good. We ought to be thankful for the farmers who the important job of growing the produce we depend on. While our domestic fruits and vegetables have been cultivated for maximum size and flavors, the orchards and gardens of Mother Nature also produce a bountiful harvest that can be just as delicious. Her food is always free and you can join your neighbors that walk, crawl, swim, or fly in enjoying the bounty. To find this market simply look towards wilderness, some of which can be discovered on the Buckeye Trail! Over the years many hikers have satisfied their hunger and enhanced their body's nutrients by foraging. If you become lost or stranded, this produce could save your life. The key is in knowing where to look and what to look for. Let's take a hike down the BT and see if we can find this secluded market where the fruits of summer abound: "Pick-up-the-beer...check!" Did you hear that? That's the song of the white-eyed vireo, a feisty little songbird that lives in dense thickets. If you hear him singing, chances are you are close to a thicket of some of our most famous wild fruit: blackberries and raspberries. Look for them in overgrown fields, forest edges, clear-cuts and fence rows, but be careful, patches of these plants have the ability to form almost impassable tangles. If you are a hiker, hunter, or backpacker chances are you've done battle with these brambles already. Thorns galore, all plants in the *Rubus* genus make you fight for their sweet reward. When they're ripe at the peak of summer (July), a big old piece of wild blackberry cobbler can be worth a couple of scratched-up legs. These thickets, however, provide great cover and food for wildlife. There are many *Rubus* species in Ohio but two of the most common are *Rubus alleghensis* and *Rubus occidentalis*. Their



common names are Allegheny blackberry (pictured above) and the wild black raspberry (pictured on pg. 22) respectively. Generally, blackberries stand erect with square-like stems, have ½ inch thorns and 3-5 leaflets per leaf. Black raspberries on the other hand are flimsier, drooping down towards the ground; they have smaller thorns, only 3 leaflets per leaf and smooth reddish stems covered in a whitish-blue powder that rubs off to the touch.

Around the same time of year we can head to the lowlands and riparian corridors to look for another prized native berry: the elderberries. These berries are famous for their tangy sour berries that are known to make a fine wine (or at least Elton John thought so). They grow on shrubs that grow to about 10 feet tall and ripen after the plant's large umbel-like clusters of flowers bloom. These beautiful flowers are loved by many species of pollinators and the berries by many species of birds. Elderberries are dark purple, the size of a BB and grow in drooping clusters. The bushes are branchy but with thick hollow stems that are straight and snap-off easily. For thousands of years elderberries have been used as both a food and medicine. In addition to wine, the berries make a good jelly and dye and the hollow stems have been used to make spouts, instruments and toys. In Ohio the most common elderberry species is *Sambucus canadensis* the American black or common elderberry.

A little earlier in the summer (mid-June) look for one of our sweetest berries up in the trees. A smaller tree, the red mulberry *Morus rubra*, is a ubiquitous hardy species that can grow to only about 50 feet. Even in the city you can find mulberries growing up through sidewalk cracks and in vacant lots. It's great when cities allow mulberries to grow, because they provide food for people and animals alike. It truly is a resource for the whole community! The mulberry fruit itself looks very similar to a blackberry, but is much sweeter and has juice that contains a purple dye that will stain your clothes, fingers, and sometimes teeth! If you can tolerate a temporary purple smile, it can be worth a snack. The red mulberry's cousin, the white mulberry *Morus alba*, is an invasive species in North America and has white rather than purple berries. In their native land, China, white mulberries are the host plant of the silkworm and have been cultivated for thousands of years for silk production. Here, however, they are planted ornamentally, sometimes escaping cultivation. They will hybridize with red mulberries, causing concerns for the genetic longevity of our native species. Both species have thick orange-tinted bark that gets deep furrows with maturity. The leaves are glossy and can have all kinds of funky shapes.

Late in the summer (September), when conventional fruits like apples and pears become ripe, two more of Ohio's best-known fruits are also coming into season. Both are found on trees and grow in the forest. To find the first of these late summer specials you have to follow the trail into southern Ohio only and head for the nearest ridgetop. There, you may find a medium sized tree with deeply furrowed, ridged and very blocky bark. This is a persimmon tree *Diospyros virginiana* and you can look for its grape-sized orange fruits around the base of the trees once they begin to fall. Persimmon fruit is said to be similar to apricots with a sweet, slimy flesh. Don't eat a persimmon before they are ripe, the unripe fruits are notorious for causing a de-salivating condition known as "cotton-mouth". The even more famous of the fall fruits however, is actually Ohio's official native state fruit and the largest tree fruit native to North America. Common in mesic forests the paw paw *Asimina triloba*. Paw paws are small trees that grow in the under-story of the forest. They have very large elongat-

ed leaves and form dense clonal patches that must be pollinated by neighboring patches in order to bear fruit. Paw paws have green skin and yellow-orange flesh that has been described as tasting like a banana/mango hybrid, banana cream pie, or a mushy mango. Most people find them to be delicious, but you do have to eat around the 4-10 large lima bean shaped seeds in each fruit. You can tell when a paw paw is ripe when darker blotches begin to form on the smooth green skin. To harvest paw paws, simply shake the tree they are growing on and let them fall to the forest floor. My personal favorite way to eat paw paw is to cook it with a little butter and brown sugar, then pour it over ice cream for a delectable paw paws foster! They are great raw and in a fruit salad too. You can come celebrate the amazing native paw paw at the Ohio Paw paw Festival, September 13-15, 2019 at Lake Snowden in Athens County. Just be sure you stop by and see some friends at the BTA booth! Until then, get out on the trail and fill up a bucket of some of Mother Nature's best; there's always something ripe at her farmer's market. Good luck and happy harvesting!





MorelFest 2019

article and photos by Brandon Bates

The 3rd annual BTA MorelFest is in the books! This year may have been full of challenges, but we persevered and managed to have an awesome MorelFest. The rainy weather on Friday didn't keep people from showing up and every person who went out to hunt this day returned to camp with morel mushrooms! For many, this was their first time EVER finding morels! I believe we had 17 people find their first ever. To top that off, we found well over 1000 morels this weekend. Many people also experienced the Buckeye Trail for the first time as well. Collectively, we hiked nearly 500 miles of trail in the Bowerston Section. This is what it's all about! There is no better feeling than getting people outdoors, and sharing our mutual interest. Many strangers became friends and people from all over Ohio and West Virginia attended. It's awesome to watch this little festival grow each year!

Thanks to Laura Peters (owner of Deersville General Store), Abigail Klamert (owner of Hazel's House Air-BNB), and all the people of Deersville, Ohio for welcoming the Buckeye Trail into your town! We appreciate the generosity that you have shown the BTA for many years prior to becoming our newest, official Trailtown! Thanks for hosting the First Annual Deersville Dash 5k from our beautifully restored BTA Century Barn! Special Thanks to the Deersville General Store, and Kurt & Laura Peters for working with us to create the first Official Buckeye Trail Ice Cream, called Buckeye Krunch (sold exclusively at Deersville General Store). I may be guilty of having had 3 cones on Saturday alone.

Julie A. Powell, from Morel than Morel Mushrooms, LLC. and her team put together some amazing mushroom dishes for all of us to enjoy during our camp potluck meal. The mushroom soup, tea and pinwheel pizzas we're incredible!

I cannot thank Corey McCahill, and the rest of the Tuscarawas River Band enough for coming out on Saturday night and sharing their musical talents with us! You guys absolutely rocked and everyone had a great time!

I also want to thank everyone that had a hand on putting this year's event together: The Buckeye Trail Association, Muskingum Lakes Chapter of the BTA, Ohio Backwoods Outdoors, Shan Jos Brunch Box, More Than Morel Mushrooms LLC, Deersville General Store, Amethyst Touch Holistic Health, Tuscarawas River Band, Penso Firewood, and Conotton Creek Woodworks.

And last, but not least, I would like to thank our hike leaders, Juston Stutz, Griffin Garbrandt, Aaron Dowdle, and Brandon Bates for doing an excellent job this year.

Without all of your help, this would all still be a dream rather than a dream-come-true!

Thanks again, for all the support, and keep spreading the BTA Love!



Buckeye Trail Association

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